

23 July 1954

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

RECOMMEND the following United Press dispatch from Berlin today be repeated to our Senior Representative in [REDACTED] requesting that he bring it to the attention of the High Commissioner and ask that in the future that office NOT indulge in speculation regarding CIA activities for publication, but that they follow the press policy of CIA headquarters of "No comment" to all press inquiries regarding CIA operations. 25X1A

"ADD KIDNAP, BERLIN (854A)

U.S. OFFICIALS FEAR THE RUSSIANS MAY WRING SECRETS OF THE CIA FROM WEST GERMANY'S SECURITY CHIEF, OTTO JOHN.

AMERICAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCES IN BONN SAID JOHN MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN COUNTER-ESPIONAGE AS A RESULT OF HIS RECENT CONFERENCES IN WASHINGTON WITH CIA CHIEF ALLEN DULLES.

FEARS FOR THE SAFETY OF ANY AMERICAN COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE SECRETS HE MAY HAVE KNOWN WERE HEIGHTENED BY A WAVE OF ARRESTS OF WESTERN SECRET AGENTS IN THE SOVIET ZONE.

THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT REGARDED THE DISAPPEARANCE SO SERIOUSLY A CABINET MEETING WAS CALLED TO DISCUSS THE JOHN CASE. IT WAS EXPECTED TO BE HELD EITHER TOMORROW OR MONDAY.

7/23--GE/MO 959A"

STANLEY J. CROGAN

Copy to Mr. Wisner